

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY F. Schmeltzer DATE 7/2/85
R (252)
EDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE _____
73 AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐ UNCLASSIFIED
DECLASSIFIED ☒ SAUDI ARABIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

-- Saudi Arabia has repeatedly indicated to us that it shares the U.S. goal of achieving a just and comprehensive Middle East peace, on the basis of Resolution 242.

-- It has rejected the Camp David approach because in its view, it does not adequately deal with the Jerusalem and Palestinian issues and that by splitting Arab ranks it has made attainment of a comprehensive solution more difficult.

-- The Saudis have long urged U.S. pressure on Israel to obtain different Israeli positions on the West Bank/Gaza and Jerusalem issues.

-- In inter-Arab and Islamic Councils Saudi Arabia has advocated using Arab and Islamic economic, political, and military resources to support the national rights of the Palestinian people, to achieve Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories and to solve the Jerusalem problem.

-- The Saudis advocate direct U.S. contacts with the PLO as the "sole legal representative" of the Palestinians in order to bring the Palestinians into the peace process. The Saudis insist upon Palestinian self-determination, including the choice of a separate Palestinian state.

-- The Saudis argue that the Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement has split Egypt from the Arab world, thus weakening the moderate Arab camp and creating opportunities for Soviet influence.

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--Senior Saudi officials argue that the U.S. will have difficulty in establishing a working relationship in the Arab World to resist the Soviet threat as long as the Arab-Israeli problem continues.

-- Saudi Arabia has a particularly important role in the Middle East peace process because of its influence with the various Arab parties. This influence is based on its Islamic stature, its financial power, and the fact that it is not a confrontation state or a direct party to the peace negotiations.